

CHESTER-LE-STREET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH DEPARTMENT
BRIDGE END
CHESTER-LE-STREET



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1969

J. L. SIDDLE, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

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CHESTER-LE-STREET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
BRIDGE END,
CHESTER-LE-STREET.

*The Chairman and Members of the
Chester-le-Street Urban District Council*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for the year 1969.

A review of statistics shows that the Death Rate and Infant Mortality Rate changed only slightly as compared with the previous year but once again there was a fall in the birth rate.

There were no deaths during the year from tuberculosis and only 1 new case was notified. This is the best year recorded.

The services for the Aged continued to help towards making life more pleasant for those whose working days are passed.

Contribution towards improving housing standards in the town were made by the Improvement Grants given and by the condemnation of a number of poorer houses.

Supervision of food and food premises continued and 4 successful prosecutions were instituted in cases involving unsatisfactory foodstuffs.

The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act report by Mr. McKenna, the authorised officer for the Act, was a satisfactory one.

I wish to thank, in addition to the voluntary workers, the Chairman and all members of the Council for their continued support and help and also the various members of the staff for their efforts during the year.

Yours faithfully,

J. L. SIDDLE,
Medical Officer of Health.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

1969

COUNCILLOR J. SIMPSON (*Chairman*)

COUN. H. A. BUTLER

COUN. J. MILLER

COUN. T. E. DAVISON

COUN. J. R. REAY

COUN. J. A. CUNNINGHAM,
B.SC., PH.D.

COUN. G. REDSHAW

COUN. R. Q. EXLEY

COUN. MRS. D. H. RIDDELL,
O.B.E., J.P.

COUN. MRS. A. EYEINGTON

COUN. N. RIDDELL

COUN. W. GOWLAND

COUN. H. SPEARS, M.B.E.

COUN. R. P. HARDIE

COUN. P. S. USHER, B.SC. J,P.

COUN. T. MCHUGH

COUN. H. B. YOUNG, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health:

JOHN LANGLEY SIDDLE, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
(Joint appointment with R.D.C. and Durham C.C.)

Chief Public Health Inspector:

PHILIP McKENNA, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.

Public Health Inspector:

DAVID LAURENCE BURDON, M.A.P.H.I.
commenced December, 1969.

Pupil Public Health Inspector:

DAVID WILFRED SMITH
resigned March, 1969.

Clerical Staff:

LINDA ANNE WRIGHT

County Area No. 4 Clerk:

VALERIE McGURN

Rodent Operative:

RICHARD VICKERS

SECTION A

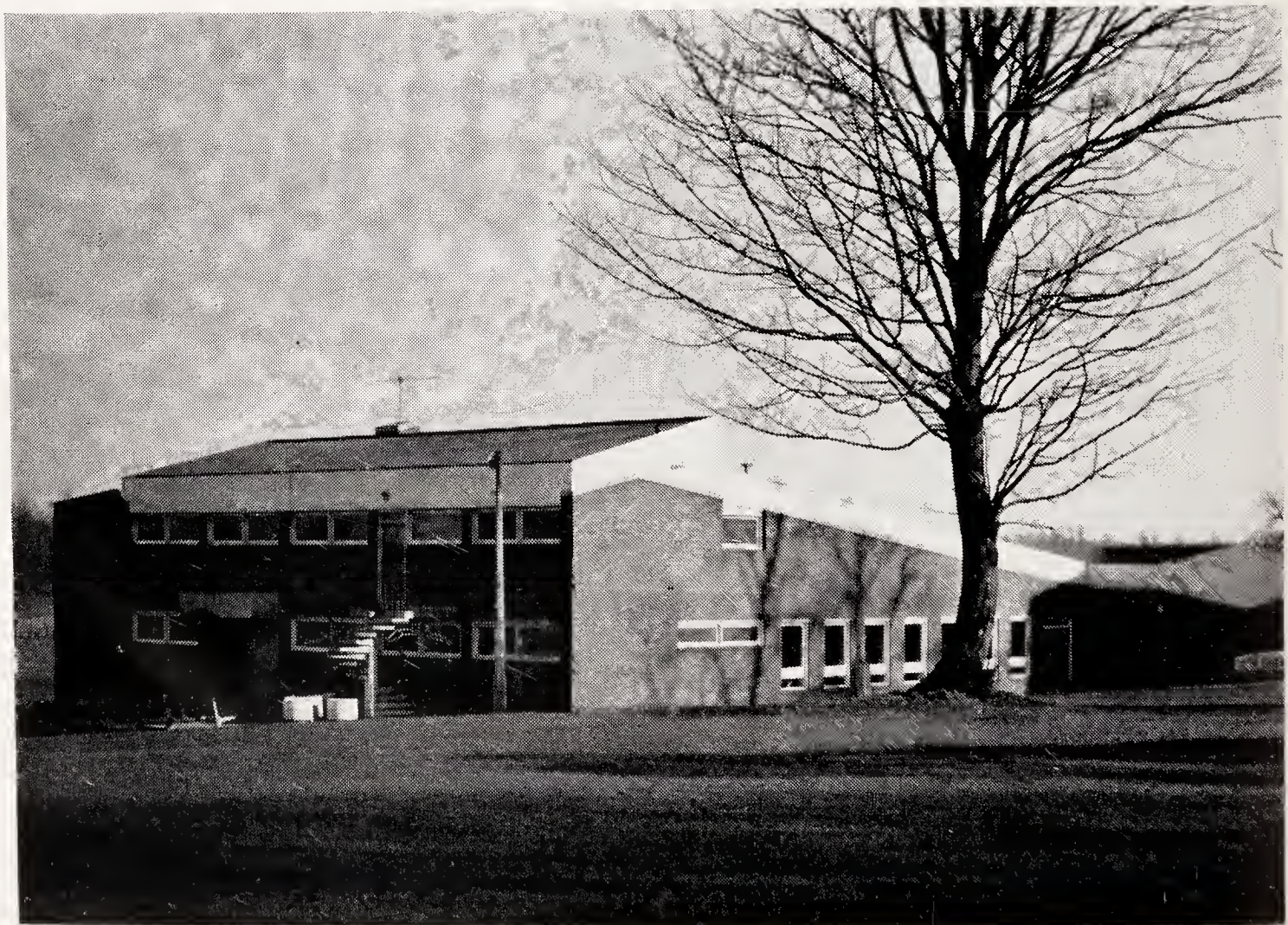
STATISTICAL AND LOCAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

1st April, 1969—31st March, 1970

Area	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,656 Acres
Population	..	..	..	..	..	..	20,800
Number of inhabited houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,441
terrace houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,819
detached houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	217
semi-detached houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,025
farm houses and cottages	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
houses and shops combined	..	..	..	..	..	..	42
council houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,331
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	..	£654,782
Estimated product of the penny rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	£2,625



NEW POLICE STATION AND COURTS



NEW YOUTH CENTRE

VITAL STATISTICS

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population for 1969 was 20,800.

The growth of population since the war has been very slow as can be seen from the following figures.

1949	..	..	..	.. 17,507
1950	..	..	..	.. 18,620
1955	..	..	..	.. 18,370
1960	..	..	..	.. 18,770
1965	..	..	..	.. 19,720
1967	..	..	..	.. 20,300
1968	..	..	..	.. 20,650
1969	..	..	..	.. 20,800

Populations in the Wards as shown by the 1961 Census are given below together with 1951 figures.

<i>Ward</i>	1951 <i>Census Figures</i>			1961 <i>Census Figures</i>
North ..	..	..	.. 5,471	5,376
West ..	..	..	.. 3,775	3,494
Central ..	..	..	.. 2,859	2,303
South ..	..	..	.. 1,532	4,407
Pelton Fell ..	..	..	.. 3,028	2,931
Chester Moor	..	..	.. 873	457

Births

In 1969 there were 297 live births (crude birth rate 14.3) as compared with 332 in 1968 (crude birth rate 16.1)

	<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>Legitimate</i>	<i>Illegitimate</i>	<i>Legitimate</i>	<i>Illegitimate</i>	
Live Births ..	143	10	139	5	297
Still Births ..	3	—	5	—	8
Total Births ..	146	10	144	5	305

Area Comparability Factor for Births: 1.03.

The Ratio of the Adjusted Birth Rate to the National Rate was 0.90.

Deaths

The number of deaths during 1969 was 284 compared with 287 in 1968.

The Crude Death Rates being 13.7 for 1969, and 13.9 for 1968.

TABLE 1
BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1969

	Rate per 1,000 Total Population	Rate per 1,000 Total Births	Annual Death Rate per 1,000 population								Rate per 1,000 live Births	
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia	Influenza	Tuberculosis (all forms)	Acute Polio- myelitis & polio- encephalitis	Malignant Neoplasm Lung, Bronchus	Coronary and arteriosclerotic heart disease	Total Deaths under 1 year of age
ENGLAND AND WALES	16.3	13.0	11.9	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.11	0.03	—	—	—	18.0
DURHAM COUNTY	15.5	17.0	12.1	0.00	0.00	0.7	0.13	0.04	0.00	0.53	3.00	16.0
CHESTER-LE-STREET	14.1	26.0	13.7	0.00	0.00	0.24	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.72	3.65	24.0

TABLE 2

<i>Causes of Death</i>	<i>Total all Ages</i>		<i>Under 1 Year</i>	<i>1—</i>	<i>5—</i>	<i>15—</i>	<i>25—</i>	<i>35—</i>	<i>45—</i>	<i>55—</i>	<i>65—</i>	<i>75 and over</i>
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>										
Other Infective and Parasitic Disease ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity Etc.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ..	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ..	14	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	7	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	7	9	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	2	7	3
Diabetes Mellitus ..	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1
Other Endocrine Etc. Diseases ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Anaemias ..	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease ..	—	3	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—
Hypertensive Disease ..	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Ischaemic Heart Disease ..	43	33	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	13	25	33
Other Forms of Heart Disease ..	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2
Cerebrovascular Disease ..	25	20	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	5	13	23
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ..	10	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	16
Influenza ..	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	4
Pneumonia ..	2	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
Bronchitis and Emphysema ..	18	8	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	6	7	12
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Appendicitis ..	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases of Digestive System ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Other Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Congenital Anomalies ..	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, Etc.	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Motor Vehicle Accidents ..	5	1	—	—	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	1
All Other Accidents ..	5	3	1	2	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	1
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries ..	2	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	2
TOTAL ALL CAUSES ..	161	123	7	3	2	1	7	6	16	42	81	119

The following were the chief causes of death during the year:

TABLE 3

<i>Causes of Death</i>	1968		1969	
	<i>Number of Deaths</i>	<i>Per cent of total Deaths</i>	<i>Number of Deaths</i>	<i>Per cent of total Deaths</i>
1. Diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System	161	56.1	154	54.2
2. Cancer	49	17.1	46	16.2
3. Respiratory Diseases	39	13.5	41	14.4
4. Violent: Road Traffic Accidents (6) Suicide (4)	8	3.1	10	6.3
5. Tuberculosis	1	0.34	0	0

The total number of deaths in the district for 1969 was 284 as compared with 287 in 1968.

Cancer

Deaths from cancer numbered 46 as compared with 49 for 1968. Of the total deaths 15 were due to lung cancer—14male and 1 female A quarter of the cancer deaths occurred in persons below the age of 65 years.

Coronary Artery Disease

The number of deaths from this cause was 76 (77 in 1968) of which 43 were male and 33 female. Details of age and sex are shown below:—

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
35—44.. .. .	2	—	2
45—54.. .. .	2	1	3
55—64.. .. .	9	4	13
65—74.. .. .	14	11	25
75	16	17	33
	43	33	76

The death rate for coronary disease was 3.65 as compared with a County figure of 3.00 per 1,000 population.

Respiratory Diseases

There was a further increase in deaths from this cause to reach a total of 41. Of these deaths 7 were due to Influenza and 26 came under the heading of Bronchitis.

Violent Deaths

18 deaths under this heading was more than double the previous year's figure. Of these deaths 6 were due to motor vehicle accidents and 4 under the suicide heading.

Infant Mortality

The number of deaths of children under 1 year was 7, the same figure as for 1968. The Infant Mortality Rate was 24 as compared with the England and Wales figure of 18.

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

(1) Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle, is in the New Institute of Pathology at the General Hospital, Newcastle.

The Director is Dr. J. H. Hale.

The Laboratory continued to help the department by carrying out bacteriological examinations of various samples (water, ice-cream, etcetera) submitted by the Health Department.

(2) Health Service Provided by County Council

The administrative County is divided up into areas, Chester-le-Street Urban and Rural Districts forming No. 4 Area. For each area a Health Sub-Committee has been appointed to exercise on behalf of the County Health Committee, certain functions relating to services under the National Health Act, 1946.

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for the Statistics concerning the services in this part of the report.

(a) *Health Visitor Service*

The number of health visitors in the area is 2.

(b) *Clinics*

The Mains Farm House, West Lane Clinic is used to provide accommodation for various clinics run by the County Council: Telephone Chester-le-Street 3286.

Ante-natal
Relaxation
Child Welfare

Distribution of Welfare Foods

National dried milk, orange juice, cod liver oil and vitamin tablets are distributed from the Welfare Centre as follows:

Tuesday—all day
Wednesday—morning only

(c) Domiciliary Midwifery

Working in the district are 3 district midwives. A summary of the work done is given below:

Work undertaken during year:					
Midwifery cases	..	..	..	..	64
Maternity cases	..	..	..	..	1
Hospital discharges		..	..	..	153

(d) Home Nursing

Working in the district there is 1 district nurse. A summary of the work done is given below:

							<i>Cases</i>	<i>Visits</i>
Medical	..	..	..	..	..	..	85	3,282
Surgical	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	609
Infectious Diseases		..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	266
Maternal complications	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Patients over 65	..	..	..	..	..	..	69	2,981
Patients under 5 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	25
Visits for injection only	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	1,170

(e) Ambulance Depot

The Chester-le-Street Urban District is served principally by the Ambulance Depot situated at Osborne Road, Chester-le-Street. The Depot has an establishment of 1 depot superintendent, 4 senior drivers and 12 drivers with 7 vehicles, 5 of which are dual purpose. There is a 24-hour coverage from the depot but in case of emergency a service is supplied from other depots. Overall control is exercised by a Central Control at Durham where, by a system of direct telephone lines and radio, close supervision is kept on vehicles operating in all parts of the County, thus enabling any area to be reinforced as necessary.

All requests for ambulance transport in the area are made to Central Control at Durham, where a 24-hour service is maintained.

The following table shows the work undertaken by the Chester-le-Street depot during the year, but it should be noted that these figures will include patients from areas other than the Urban District and that the conveyance of patients residing in the Urban District is not restricted to the Chester-le-Street depot, but may be undertaken by vehicles from other depots passing through the area.

<i>Journeys</i>	<i>Patients Carried</i>			<i>Mileage</i>
	<i>Stretcher</i>	<i>Sitting</i>	<i>Total</i>	
5,376 (5,805)	3,437 (4,515)	16,784 18,332	20,221 22,847	134,643 140,113)

(f) *Domestic Help*

Domestic helps are provided by the County Council where necessary in cases of sickness, childbirth, infirmity or other household emergencies.

Cases attended 1st January, 1969	..	..	..	..	190
Number of Home Helps employed at 31st January, 1969	..	..	..	..	87
New cases served during 1969	..	..	..	..	58
Cases terminated during 1969	..	..	..	..	66
Cases attended at 31st December, 1969	..	..	..	..	182

Type of Cases Served during the year:

(a) Maternity (Including expectant mothers)	..	..	..	..	3
(b) Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	—
(c) Chronic Sick (including aged and infirm)	..	..	..	..	237
(d) Others	..	..	..	..	8

(g) *Prevention of Illness and After-Care*

Under this section of the National Health Service Act the Durham County Council supply nursing requisites on loan to those needing them. A small store of articles is now available at short notice at the No. 4 Area Health Office, Bridge End.

(h) *School Health Service*

The school Health Services in the area are provided by the County Council. The Service provides for systematic medical examination of pupils in the school and dental treatment of school children.

The school clinic for the area is now at Chester-le-Street.

(3) **Hospital Services**

Newcastle Regional Hospital Board	..	Benfield Road, Walkergate, Newcastle upon Tyne.
Durham		Dryburn Hospital., Durham.

General:

Dryburn Hospital, Durham.
County Hospital, Durham.
St. Margaret's Hospital, Durham.
General Hospital, Chester-le-Street.
Highfield Hospital, Chester-le-Street.

Maternity:

Dryburn Hospital, Durham.

Infectious Diseases:

Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead.
Langley Park Isolation Hospital, (Emergency Reserve).

Tuberculosis:

Chest Clinic, General Hospital, Chester-le-Street.
Mass Radiography Unit, Dryburn Hospital, Durham.,
Maiden Law Hospital, Lanchester.

Mental:

Winterton Hospital, Sedgfield.
Aycliffe Hospital.
Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital.
Earls House Hospital.
General Hospital, Chester-le-Street.

Venereal Diseases:

General Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne.

(4) Executive Council Services:

The Executive Council for the County of Durham is the body responsible for the administration of the General Practitioner Services in the District.

The General Practitioner Services consist of the Family Doctor Service, The General Dental Service, the Pharmaceutical Service and the Supplementary Ophthalmic Service, each providing the patient with the individual attention needed. These services are available to all civilians according to their medical need.

There are 12 general practitioners practising in the Urban Area.

(5) National Assistance Act 1948

(a) Meals on Wheels

The service continued to run satisfactorily during the year and once again our thanks must be extended to the Women's Royal Voluntary Service and to Rodney Dresses for their part in the scheme.

In all 5,426 meals were served as compared with 4,928 in 1968.

(b) Luncheon Clubs

The luncheon club meals continue to increase so that in 1969 a total of 13,413 meals were served as compared with 10,561 in 1968.

Numbers served in individual clubs were as follows:

Bullion Hall	..	..	..	4,780
South Pelaw	..	..	..	4,397
Pelton Fell	..	..	..	4,236
Total	..	..	..	13,413

During the year an investigation was carried out in the central part of the town to find the demand for meals for the aged. The number wishing meals did not warrant opening of a luncheon club. in that particular locality. Those wishing to use the service were fitted into the existing arrangements as far as possible.

Voluntary helpers continued to give their services at the luncheon clubs. A supply of overalls was obtained during the year and made available for the use of the voluntary helpers.

(c) Holidays for the Aged

For the fourth successive year a party of pensioners was sent for a weeks holiday to Southport. As for previous years the selection, from the applications, was made on the basis of age and length of time since last holiday. The number who enjoyed the holiday was 30. Voluntary helpers were provided by St. Mary.'s Guild.

(d) Voluntary Help

Once again thanks must be expressed on behalf of the Council to the voluntary helpers in the various fields of Council activity—meals for aged; holidays; chiropody; visits etcetera. It is gratifying to find in this materialistic age that persons are still coming forward to give voluntary help in those services aimed at helping the elderly.

(6) Chiropody—Aged Persons

Clinics continued to be held in the Bullion Hall; South Pelaw Hall; Village Hall, Pelton Fell; and Chester Moor Recreation Room.

The British Red Cross Society organise the sessions with the aid of a grant from the Durham County Council. In each case the Urban District Council permit the use of their premises for the clinics.

Treatments given were as follows:

Number of persons	..	..	..	281
Number of treatments	..	..	..	891

(7) Health Education

Co-operation in National Publicity Schemes continued during the year. The County Council Health Department services have a Health Education Section which provides help in this growing field.

A course of lectures in Hygienic Food Handling was arranged for a number of food handlers working in the town.



HOLYOAKE WARDEN SCHEME



HOLYOAKE WARDEN SCHEME

SECTION C

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

1. Water

Piped water is supplied to the town by the Durham County Water Board. Routine samples are taken by the Public Health Inspector and sent for bacteriological examination at fairly frequent intervals and additional samples are submitted in the case of a complaint. 7 samples were taken and found to be satisfactory.

One sample of water was submitted for chemical analysis during the year following complaint, the result is given below:

Appearance	..	..	..	Clear, colourless	
Odour	..	..	..	Normal	
Taste	..	..	..	Normal	
pH value	..	..	..	7.2	
					<i>Parts per Million</i>
Total solid matter (Dried at 180°C)	..	..	..	..	75
Nitrogen:	..	..	..	..	
as free and saline ammonia	..	..	..	..	0.08
as albuminoid ammonia	..	..	..	..	0.02
as nitrate	..	..	..	..	Nil
Hardness:					
Temporary	..	..	..	..	20
Permanent	..	..	..	..	25
Total	..	..	..	..	45
Chloride	..	..	..	..	9
Sulphate	..	..	..	..	29
Alkalinity	..	..	..	..	20
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours	..				0.20
Metals:					
Calcium	..	..	..	..	15
Magnesium	..	..	..	..	2
Sodium	..	..	..	..	5
Potassium	..	..	..	..	1
Lead	..	..	..	..	Nil
Copper	..	..	..	..	Nil
Iron	..	..	..	..	0.20

Report:

“This water possesses a high degree of chemical purity and, in the event of a satisfactory bacteriological report, it may be accepted as wholesome. I understand that a complaint of ‘Milkiness’ was made about this water. The sample as examined, was perfectly clear and the apparent milkiness could be due to entrained air escaping after the water was released from pressure.”

Water Consumption

Chester-le-Street Urban District is in the Northern Division of the Durham County Water Board. The consumption of water in this Northern Division has risen since last year as shown by the following approximate figures.

	<i>Domestic gallons per head per day</i>	<i>Trade gallon per head per day</i>	<i>Total</i>
1968	30	15	45
1969	31	16	47

The continued increase in demand for water by all members of the community shows very forcibly why additional sources are continually being sought.

With the population of Chester-le-Street Urban District at 20,800 this means that every additional increase of 1 gallon per head per day requires about 7 million gallons extra in the town for the year.

22 samples were taken for bacteriological examination by Durham County Water Board and were classified as shown below:

<i>Number of Samples</i>	<i>Class 1</i>	<i>Class 2</i>
22	21	1
	95.2%	4.8%

2. Disinfestations

During the year treatment was carried out in 35 premises in order to deal with infestations of various types.

3. Plague of Toads

During the summer a most unusual type of complaint reached the Health Department. Residents in the Garden Farm Estate were alarmed when their gardens were invaded by thousands of immature toads.

The toads had came from the lake in the grounds of the Hermitage. Apparently an exodus of toads from the lake takes place every year but this time, the toads instead of moving in the direction of the burn on the South side of the Hermitage had moved to the Garden Farm Estate on the North side.

Nothing could be done to deal with this invasion which however was really quite harmless but the Management Committee at the Hermitage agreed to remove the spawn from the lake the following Spring to prevent recurrence.

4. Clean Air Act 1956—1968

Generally speaking there is no great problem regarding atmospheric pollution arising from industrial premises in the Urban District.

However, from time to time the emissions of smoke from the chimneys at a local brickworks does cause some concern. Frequent discussions have taken place with the management with a view to securing an improvement.

No Smoke Control Areas have yet been established in this district although domestic coal burning fires are still the principal producers of pollution in the atmosphere.

In many homes now especially where both husband and wife are out working it is found more convenient to use one of the other competing fuels which can be automatically controlled.

This decrease in the use of coal should cause a gradual decrease in the level of pollution.

5. Sewage Works

In June there were complaints about the smell from the Council's Sewage Works. This smell in fact comes from the sludge land and only occurs when certain weather conditions arise. A warm and dry spell of weather with a slight breeze blowing from the sludge land causes the smell to be obvious in certain residential areas.

The Council agreed to use a chemical deodorant and to review the position later in the light of results obtained from such treatment.

6. Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1954

At the end of the year there were fifteen scrap metal dealers registered by the authority.

The Council is required to keep a register of such dealers and to register upon application, any scrap metal dealer trading from premises in the area.

7. Pet Animals Act 1951

Three licenses for the keeping of pet shops were issued during the year.

8. Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963

3 new registrations were recorded during the year giving a total of 197 premises in this district for which the Council was responsible

Steady progress in improving better working conditions in Offices, Shops and other premises was maintained. The number of contraventions recorded being 48 compared with 125 in the previous year.

No fatal accidents occurred at any of these premises and only 8 accidents necessitating absence of three days or more from work were notified.

It was not found necessary to resort to legal proceedings during the year.

(a) Registration and General Inspections

<i>Class of Premises</i>	<i>Number of premises registered during the year</i>	<i>Number of registered premises at end of year</i>	<i>Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year</i>
Offices	3	49	12
Retail Shops	—	119	15
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	—	2	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	—	27	3
Fuel Storage Depots	—	—	—
Totals ..	3	197	31

Total number of visits of all kinds by inspectors to registered premises under the Act: 55.

In this schedule

“general inspection” means any inspection of premises to which the Act applies which is undertaken for the purpose of ascertaining whether all the relevant provisions of the Act and instruments thereunder are complied with as respects those premises; and “registered premises” means any premises in respect of which a notice under Section 49 of the Act has been received by a local authority or by the Greater London Council and the expression “premises registered” shall be construed accordingly.

Analysis of Contraventions

<i>Section</i>	<i>Number of Contraventions found</i>	
6	Temperature	4
7	Ventilation	1
8	Lighting	6
9	Sanitary conveniences	7
10	Washing facilities	6
16	Floors, passage and stairs	7
17	Fencing exposed parts machinery	1
24	First Aid	6
	Other Matters	10
	Total ..	48

(b) Reported Accidents

Workplace	Number Reported	Total Number investigated	Action Recommended			No Action
			Prosecution	Formal Warning	Informal Advice	
Retail Shop	7	2	—	1	1	5
Wholesale Shops	1	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	8	2	—	1	1	5

Analysis of Reported Accidents

	Retail Shops	Wholesale, Warehouses
Machinery	1	—
Transport	1	1
Handling Goods ..	2	—
Struck by falling object ..	1	—

Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises by Workplace

Class of Workplace	Number of Persons Employed
Offices	279
Retail Shops	783
Wholesale departments, Warehouses ..	68
Catering establishments open to the public ..	254
Canteens	2
Fuel storage depots	—
Total	1,386
Total Males ..	466
Total Females ..	920

FACTORIES ACT 1961

PART ONE OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for the purpose of the provisions as to health (including inspections made by the PuUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR).

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	
1. Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.. ..	—	—	—	—
2. Factories not included in 1, in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	45	7	2	—
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-worker's premises)	5	—	2	—
Total	50	7	2	—

- 2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>				<i>Number of cases in which which prosecutions were instituted</i>
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Rem- edied</i>	<i>Referred</i>		
			<i>To H. M. Inspector</i>	<i>By H.M. Inspector</i>	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (b) unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	1	—
Total ..	2	2	—	1	—

10. RATS AND MICE (Prevention of Damage by Pests) Act, 1949

	Type of property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in district ..	8,699 (8,676)	10 (10)
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	435 (337)	— (2)
(b) Number infested by:—		
(i) Rats	145 (152)	— (2)
(ii) Mice	36 (33)	— (—)
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	181 (145)	5 (6)
(b) Number infested by:—		
(i) Rats	45 (68)	— (—)
(ii) Mice	19 (25)	— (—)

(Last years figures are given in parenthesis)

Rodent Control

186 complaints of rodent infestations were received. This was an increase of 2 complaints over the previous year.

The number of visits made to premises by your rodent operative was 812 which included attending to complaints and the necessary 'follow up' treatment.

Investigations of Infestation Complaints

			Notifications	Visits by Rodent Operative		Insects etc.
				Following Complaints	Routine Visits	
January	..	..	26	68	2	1
February	..	..	27	78	9	0
March	..	..	14	48	15	0
April	..	..	16	57	14	6
May	..	..	13	39	16	5
June	..	..	11	43	12	5
July	..	..	10	45	21	3
August	..	..	6	22	32	11
September	..	..	10	36	29	2
October	..	..	11	38	23	1
November	..	..	20	66	18	0
December	..	..	22	68	13	1
Total ..			186	608	204	35
				812		

Sewer Treatment

The annual treatment of sewers was carried out as usual. Poison baits were laid in 130 manholes but it is satisfactory to note that in only 4 cases were 'partial takes' recorded. The number of visits made in this connection was 281.

SECTION D

There were 26 Council houses completed during the year. 138 were completed by private builders.

Houses Built since 1953.

	1953-1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	Total
New Permanent Council Houses	360	108	116	129	122	70	43	84	53	54	109	65	33	16	26	1,388
Re-Lets	212	48	49	101	76	118	146	117	104	122	157	113	130	138	206	1,837
Private	28	36	14	8	23	39	72	98	131	143	120	184	143	161	138	1,338

Rehousing

Rehousing on medical priority was granted to 19 families during the year, 19 families were rehoused from condemned property.

Rehousing from condemned property for the past nine years:

1961	..	..	11
1962	..	..	28
1963	..	..	49
1964	..	..	23
1965	..	..	40
1966	..	..	21
1967	..	..	31
1968	..	..	19
1969	..	..	19

The waiting period for a council house for persons on the ordinary list varies with district but is approximately 10 years.

Slum Clearance

Once again no Clearance Areas were declared during the year and condemnation of houses was done individually following reports by the Public Health Inspector.

Details of action taken, under the Housing Act, 1957, during the year were as follows:

Closing Orders	..	..	10
Closing Order in respect of part of a building	..	..	1
Demolition Orders on individual houses ..	..	..	16
			—
Total ..	..	..	27
			—



HOUSE IMPROVEMENT

Improvement Grants

During the year 42 applications for standard grants were approved, a decrease of 10 on the previous year.

Thirty four houses were improved with grant aid—an increase of nine on the previous year.

It is hoped that the more generous assistance now available under the Housing Act 1969 will offer greater incentives to owners to improve and modernise the sound old houses.

A summary of the work done in this connection since 1959 is given below:

				<i>Year 1969</i>	<i>Total 1959/1969</i>
Number of applications approved	..	..		42	301
Number of houses improved	..	..	..	34	249
Amount Paid in Grants	..	..	..	£5,920	£36,756
<i>Amenities Provided</i>					
Fixed Baths	..	..	..	27	209
Wash Hand Basins	..	..	..	30	324
Hot Water Supply	..	..	..	73	258
Water Closet inside Dwelling	..	..	..	33	240
Food Storage Accommodation	..	..	..	25	189

SECTION E

Inspection and Supervision of Food and Food Premises

Only one course of lectures was held during the year for Food Handlers in the town.

As for previous courses this was run in co-operation with Durham Technical College and successful candidates were granted the Certificate in Food Hygiene of the St. John Ambulance Association.

Food Premises

The food premises in the town are in general showing improvements from year to year—Photographs in this report show the increased trend in the use of refrigeration, which in itself is an aid to improved hygiene in shops.

Milk and Dairies

Only milk of specified designations may be sold in the district. The granting of Dealers Licenses authorising the use of special designations is the responsibility of the Durham County Council. The County Council staff take samples of milk for examination and copies of the results are sent to the Chester-le-Street Urban District Council, Health Department. In all, 69 samples were reported on, the results are shown in the table below:

<i>Designation</i>							
Untreated	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	..	..	35
Sterilised	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
<i>Test Result</i>				<i>Passed</i>		<i>Failed</i>	
Methylene Blue Test	..	..	..	42		5	
Phosphatase Test	..	..	..	35		—	
Turbidity Test	..	..	..	17		—	
Biological Test for T.B. etc.			..	4		—	
Antibiotic Test	..	..	..	17		—	
				115		5	

Meat and Other Foods

The following foodstuffs were found by the Public Health Inspector to be unsound and were voluntarily surrendered:

					<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>
Meat at Retail Shops	..	..	..	..	—	74
Canned Meat	..	..	..	..	4	16
Other Canned Foods	..	..	..	..	3	84
Fresh Friut and Vegetables	..	..	..	..	3	27
Other Foods	..	..	..	..	17	47
Total					29	12

Food and Drugs Act 1955

A number of complaints regarding food sold locally were reported to your Public Health Inspector. Each complaint was carefully investigated.

Some complaints arose from the presence of foreign matter in the food e.g.

- (a) the presence of pieces of metal in a cake and in a sausage,
- (b) the presence of insects in a meat pie and in a can of fruit,
- (c) slices of bacon infested with maggots.



MODERN SHOP PREMISES

Other complaints were in respect of food sold in a mouldy state. In four cases prosecutions were instituted all of which were successful. Fines and costs totalled £88.

Food and Drugs Act 1955—Registration of Premises

Premises for manufacture, sale and storage of Ice Cream	58
Premises for manufacturing Sausage, Potted Meat and Pressed Foods	12

Egg Pasteurisation

During the year 11 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for testing (Alpha-Amylase), and all but one sample passed the test.

S E C T I O N F

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases

During 1969 there were only 15 notifications of infectious diseases. The figure for 1968 was 175 of which 160 were measles.

Measles

Only 7 cases were notified as compared with 160 in 1968. The continued use of measles vaccine should mean that there will be no such large notification figures in the future. Besides the infant schools an effort was made to complete vaccination in all the schools in the No. 4 Area. Unfortunately shortage of vaccine due to production upset prevented this being achieved and a small number of senior pupils awaited treatment at the end of the year.

Scarlet Fever

The 3 notifications received during the year were the first ones since 1964.

Whooping Cough

3 cases were notified during the year. There had been no notification in the previous 2 years.

Tuberculosis

Only 1 case was notified during 1969 and there were no deaths from the disease. This is without a doubt the best position that has ever been recorded in the Urban District and is the result of a combination of factors which have been operating over the years—improved environmental conditions: better nutrition: B.C.G. vaccination: improved methods of treatment, etcetera.

Immunisation and Vaccination

A computer operated system of appointments for immunisation and vaccination applicable to general practitioners and child welfare centres was introduced in the area in 1969. This project appears to be working well and it is hoped will result in an increased acceptance rate. The figures for immunisation and vaccination are given below:

Diphtheria

Figures for immunisation during the past 5 years were as follows:

	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Primary Immunisation 0-15 years	373	349	346	192	264
Booster Doses	446	306	471	321	480

Poliomyelitis

Primary Immunisation..	..	..	216
Booster Doses	..	..	416

Whooping Cough

Primary Immunisation	..	..	339
Booster Doses	..	..	258

Smallpox

Primary Immunisation..	..	..	196
Re-Vaccination	..	..	3

Measles

Primary Immunisation..	..	..	217
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B.C.G.

The B.C.G. scheme for vaccination of school leavers was continued for the fourteenth year. Arrangements were made in co-operation with the Chest Physician and some positive school children who had not been previously vaccinated were x-rayed.

The figures were as follows:

<i>School</i>	<i>Number Tuberculin Tested</i>	<i>Number Positive</i>	<i>Per cent Positive</i>	<i>Number Vaccinated</i>
Deanery Secondary	107	12	11.2	92
Hermitage Secondary	137	14	11.1	96
R.C. Secondary	11	2	18.1	9
Total ..	255	28	10.9	197

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1969

	Under 1 year	1—5 years	6—15 years	16—25 years	26—45 years	46—65 years	66 and up	All Ages	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total Notifications	Admitted to Hospital
Measles ..	1	6	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	5	—	—	7	—
Whooping Cough ..	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	—
Scarlet Fever ..	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1
Tuberculosis (Pul.) ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED SINCE 1953

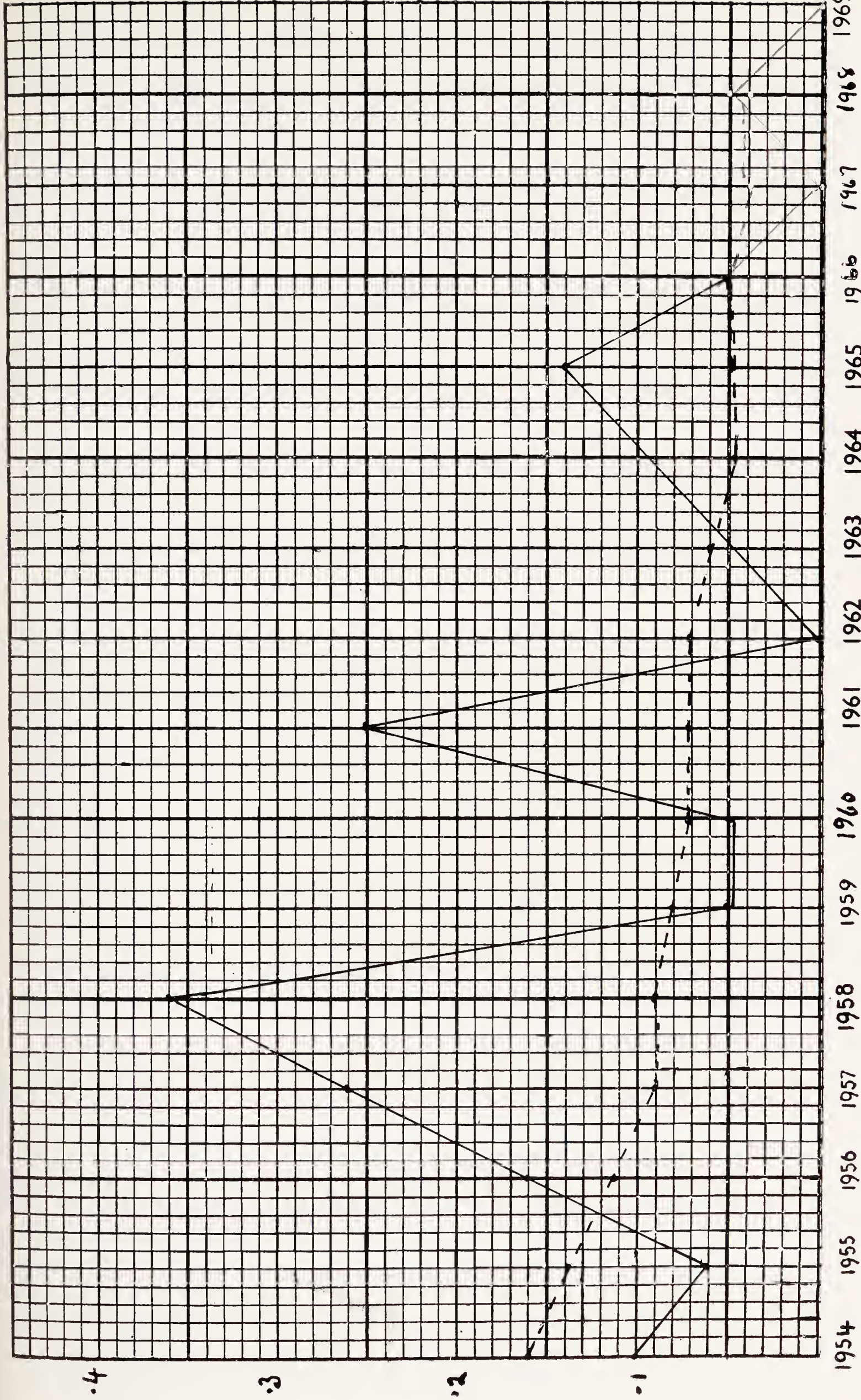
	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Scarlet Fever	17	7	4	7	14	6	3	—	1	1	4	6	—	—	—	—	3
Enteric Fever (including Para-typhoid fever)	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	13	13	9	2	8	2	4	9	6	6	7	13	2	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	3	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	—	1	—
Whooping Cough	3	17	18	38	9	13	7	15	—	4	14	9	3	5	—	—	3
Measles	45	18	131	18	264	14	251	14	282	6	276	55	146	344	77	160	7
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	8	3	2	—	—	—	1
Poliomyelitis	4	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	3	1	2	3	—	—	—	1	—	8	8	6	3	—	4	—
Tuberculosis (Pul.)	20	15	16	14	10	8	9	6	11	10	6	4	11	7	3	5	1
Tuberculosis (Non-Pul.)	1	4	1	2	2	2	3	—	1	1	—	3	1	—	—	1	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	3	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis (Infective)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS DEATH RATE

CHESTER-LE-STREET U.D.

ENGLAND AND WALES

RATE PER 1000 POPULATION



CHESTER-LE-STREET U.D.

ENGLAND AND WALES

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

RATE PER
1000 LIVE BIRTHS

